



January 2005

Missouri Producer

Missouri Farm Service Agency

Parkade Center, Suite 225
601 Business Loop 70 W
Columbia, MO 65203
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State Committee

Don Fischer, Chairman
Fred Ferrell
Julie Hurst
Craig Westfall
Barbara Wilson

Staff

Tim Kelley, State Executive Director
Patty Dick, Administration
Dan Gieseke, Farm Loans
Bo Wendleton, Compliance
Gerald Hrdina, Conservation
Maurine Long, Price Support
Mike Laf olette, Production Flexibility

Sign Up for Ewe Lamb Program Ends Jan. 13

The final day to sign up for Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Payment Program will be Jan. 13. The program has available \$18 million for eligible sheep and lamb producers to encourage the replacement and retention of ewe lamb breeding stock.

Applications for eligible ewe lambs must be filed at the Farm Service Agency county office where the sheep operation is headquartered.

Payments of up to \$18 will be made for each eligible ewe lamb. If applications exceed available funding, individual payments will be factored down from the \$18 per eligible ewe lamb.

Eligible ewe lambs are lambs that meet all of the following criteria: • purchased or retained for breeding stock between Aug. 1, 2003, and July 31, 2004 • retained for one complete offspring lambing cycle • no older than 18 months as of Aug. 1, 2003 • not have produced an offspring as of Aug. 1, 2003, or prior to purchase if purchased later • not have received payment for the ewe lambs under the Lamb Meat Adjustment Assistance Program • comply with all APHIS scrapie provisions in 9 CFR Parts 54 and 79 • not contain the characteristics of parrot mouth, foot rot or scrapie

Sheep and lamb operations that request payment under the program will be subject to spot check. The following records must be maintained for three years after date of payment to document eligibility: • date of lamb birth or purchase • number of ewe lambs purchased, if applicable • date of lamb death, if applicable • date of lambing, if applicable • date of sale, if lamb has been sold • identification with APHIS approved scrapie program.

Contact the county office staff for additional information. In addition, you can obtain official information about scrapie and the identification requirements on USDA's Web site, <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie.htm> or contact your local APHIS Veterinary Services Area Office by calling, toll-free, 1-866-USDA-TAG (873-2824) or the State Veterinarian's office.

Payments Deferred for Active Duty Military

Military personnel, including regular duty, National Guard and Reservist borrowers on active duty may be entitled to additional payment options. The National Defense Act provides for non-accrual of interest and deferral of payments for borrowers who are on active duty during war or a national emergency. The non-accrual of interest will not be considered for forgiveness. National Guard members must be on active duty for at least 30 days.

Dates to Remember	
Jan. 13	Final application date for Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Program
Jan. 17	Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. FSA offices closed.
Jan. 31	Final loan/LDP availability date for wool and mohair.
Jan. 31	Final loan/LDP availability date for peanuts.
Feb. 21	Washington's Birthday. FSA offices closed.
Mar. 15	Final application date for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.
Mar. 31	Final loan/LDP availability date for small grains.
Mar. 31	Final date for Graze Out LDP
Continues	Farm Storage Facility Loans
Continues	Grasslands Reserve Program

Farm loan payments will be deferred and interest will not accrue beginning Oct. 28, 2004, or the date they entered active duty, whichever is later. This period of deferral will be added to the end of the loan term. The payment and interest deferral will end when the war or national emergency is over or the borrower is released from active duty, whichever is earlier.

Contact your county Farm Service Agency office staff for details.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Special Accommodations

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

Power of Attorney

If you're too busy getting work done around the farm to come into your local FSA office to conduct business and complete your paperwork, here's a solution. Retain an agent to act on your behalf for programs and transactions authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill and most other FSA administered programs. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or on-line at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms obtained and completed outside USDA Service Centers offices must be notarized. To find out more, talk to the staff.

Payment Limitation, Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following payments apply to DCP for each contract year under the new Farm bill comes through both direct and counter-cyclical payments. For all

Selected Interest Rates for January 2005	
90-Day Treasury Bill	2.000%
Farm Operating - Direct	3.875%
Farm Ownership - Direct	5.375%
Limited Resource	5.000%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	4.000%
Emergency	3.750%
Farm Storage Facility	3.875%
Sugar Storage Facility	4.625%
Commodity Loans 1996- Present	3.625%

covered commodities, except peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. For peanuts: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation. The Conservation Reserve Programs annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also inform every payment under more than one entity.

Bank Account Changes

As of Jan. 1, 1999, all FSA payments are supposed to be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the county office staff if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers.

Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

DCP Sign Up Underway

We can now issue 2004 advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program. Update your DCP contract and put the advance payment to work for your farm today. Farmers who want to update their contracts need to address land and business issues:

- Will you continue to rent the same property you rented last year? If not, notify the staff so we can update your farm records or perform a reconstitution to remove land from your farming operation.
- A cash-rent certification may be used if you rented the land last year; however, an advance payment cannot be issued for the farm until July 1, 2004.
- Are you changing the structure of your operation? For example, is the farm converting from an individual to a partnership or limited liability corporation? Are you changing shares within the business or is one of the shareholders leaving the business? These questions need to be answered prior to sign-up.

Attention Producers, Landowners!

- Do you intend to clear timber areas to create or to expand existing crop areas?
- Are you converting a pasture field into a crop field?

- Are there any areas on your farm that you are considering cropping that have not been cropped in recent years?
- Is there a wet spot in a field that you want drain to make cropping easier?
- Are you disturbing a wildlife habitat area of any type?
- Are you doing anything different on your farm this year?

These are highly erodible and wetlands provision questions that need to be considered each year by producers to assure that they may remain eligible for USDA benefits. If you have any question or concern that something you plan to do on your farm could jeopardize your eligibility for benefits, please contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service representative before you begin work.

Complaint Process

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and appeal to the USDA National Appeal Division.

Faxed Signatures

Certain FSA program applications may be accepted by facsimile (fax) machine if Form FSA-237, Facsimile Signature Authorization and Verification, is on file. This authorization form should be completed, signed and witnessed by the FSA office staff, or notarized.

Civil Rights Complaint Process

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Any person, class or group of persons may file a discrimination complaint with 180 days of an alleged discriminatory action. Complaints may be filed in writing or orally with the agency head, any designated agency official or the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Assistance in filing a complaint can be obtained by calling or visiting any FSA office.

Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA farm loan manager or officer for more details and assistance in applying.

Customer Statement

For most of us, Jan. 1 signals the beginning of a new year...a new *tax* year. It's time to start gathering financial records and starting thinking about filling out a 1040. This year, producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will have a little help in that they will be able to see their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

To learn about the Customer Statement, visit <http://customerstatement.usda.gov/>.

Maintaining Collateral Quality

This year's bumper grain crop has its obvious up side, but there is a downside too. Many producers are hard pressed to find adequate storage for every bushel harvested. Before giving in to the temptation to overfill storage bins, producers should think about the problems that can result.

Overfilling storage bins can result in spoiled grain. Bins are meant to hold a level volume of grain. When bins are overfilled and grain is heaped up, airflow is hindered and the chance of spoilage increases.

Producers who take out marketing assistance loans and use the farm-stored grain as collateral should remember that they are responsible for maintaining the quality of the commodity through the term of the loan.

For information about grain storage options visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/cropsystems/M1080-FS.pdf> or contact your local extension office.